

## Maine State Planning Office

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### A Zero-Waste Holiday

Lately the buzz about going green has increased in volume. Now that the holidays are here, you can even give “green gifts.”

One zero-waste holiday gift idea that can be especially memorable, fun and fit into even the lowest budget is to give an experience. Instead of giving more things, giving an experience creates memories and gives enjoyment to the people you care about.

“What experience? How do I give an experience?!” you may ask. The possibilities are endless. You can give tickets to a movie, sports event or performance, a gift certificate for a service (massage anyone?) or favorite shop. And while these suggestions all involve spending money, there are gifts that only require giving your time and companionship.

For example, consider planning an afternoon together sharing a favorite activity. You could visit a special place or enjoy a holiday concert or a date at the skating rink. A special date or event to look forward to makes the dark days of winter more bearable and can even add coziness and warmth to frosty winter months.

You can also give a gift certificate for your services. I give my brother and sister-in-law ten hours of babysitting.

It’s true that giving an experience instead of things may not be for everyone. But it does express appreciation and demonstrates an investment in your relationships. If you’re wondering how to make this holiday more fun, consider giving the gift of your time instead of stuff and make it a Zero-Waste holiday. #####

*Note:* The Maine State Planning Office encourages us to reduce waste and recycle. For information about recycling in Maine, visit [www.MaineRecycles.com](http://www.MaineRecycles.com)